



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 28 HELD AT HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 10am

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Cr Paul Le Mottee	Port Stephens Council (on behalf of Mayor)
	Arianna Henty (AH)	AGL – Snr Manager - Approvals
	Kourosh Maleklou (KM)	AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF
	Rob Cooper (RC)	AGL – Snr Stakeholder Engagement
	Joanne Ferguson (JF)	AGL – Community Relations Manager
	Amelia O'Neill (AO)	AGL – Environment Manager, Battery Project
	Carina Steinbakk (CS)	AGL – Project Manager
	Charlie Perry (CP)	AGL – Senior Project Manager, Battery Project
	Robyn Parker (RP)*	Tomago Aluminium (<i>online</i>)
	Leigh Ridgeway (LR)	NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group & Worimi Board member
	Ken Page (KP)	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
	John Moraitis (JM)	AGL – Environment Manager
	Dianne Ball	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation
	Zona Kelly	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation
APOLOGIES	Mayor, Cr Leah Anderson	Port Stephens Council
	Monica Porte	John Holland & Gamuda Australia - Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead
	John Simpson	Hunter Water Delegate
	Brett Hoad (BH)	Transport for NSW - Deputy Project Director M1 Extension to Raymond Terrace <i>online</i>
ABSENT:	Mike Cowell	Port Stephens Koalas
	Peter Gessling	Hunter Business Chamber

**Attended via video-conferencing.*

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.06am.

Acknowledgement of Country – LA delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.


WELCOME	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and recognised Robyn Parker who joined online. LA introduced Charlie Perry as AGL's Senior Project Manager for the Tomago Battery Project. All attendees stated their name and position on the CDG.	
APOLOGIES	As listed above.	

DECLARATIONS	LA advised that she is an Independent Chairperson, approved by the Department of Planning engaged by AGL to chair this CDG.	No changes to members' previous declarations.									
BUSINESS ARISING	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 3 June 2025 were finalised and sent to members on 22 July 2025. There were two action items:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th><th>ISSUE</th><th>BY WHOM</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Send through Cultural Heritage consultation information</td><td>AH</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Add PLM to distribution list.</td><td>LA</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No other business arising.</p>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1	Send through Cultural Heritage consultation information	AH	2	Add PLM to distribution list.	LA	<p>1. Complete. Sent 16/6/25 with draft minutes.</p> <p>2. Complete.</p>
ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM									
1	Send through Cultural Heritage consultation information	AH									
2	Add PLM to distribution list.	LA									
CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16/6/25 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review with presentation & Cultural Heritage consultation information. 16/6/25 – Email to members with M1 motorway extension information. 22/7/25 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation. 22/7/25 – Email to members with date change for Q3 CDG. 23/7/25 – Email to members with update from MP regarding Old Punt Road. 3/4/25 – Email to members with latest community update from T4NSW regarding M1 extension. 31/7/25 – Email to members advising of Tomago Battery final investment decision. 27/8/25 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting. 29/8/25 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting. 	As provided with meeting notice – emailed 27/8/25.									
NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY GENERAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major incident, MTIs or LTIs Celebrated 10 years of operation in July 2025 800 TJ gas injected to NSW network during winter Sendout completed for winter 2025 Critical maintenance commenced Major projects – safety and operational improvements – underway Plan to re-fill the tank from mid-September 202 	Slide 4									
ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE	<p>Environment update presented by JM:</p> <p>NGSF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero environmental incidents in the last quarter Annual return prepared for EPA submission Site visits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ektimo – emissions testing (June) AECOM – water monitoring (Sep) Cool Burn – bushfire assessment (Sep) Positive communications with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tomago Aluminium (bushfire related) Lower Hunter Bushfire Mgmt Committee Hunter Water (water monitoring) 	Slide 6									

	<p>Medowie Offsets Properties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero environmental incidents in last quarter • Annual report prepared (Year 9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50 canopy trees planted (Worimi Green Team) ○ Biodiversity tracking very well ○ Weeds in low abundance (lantana, camphor, blackberry) ○ Pest animals in low numbers ○ No evidence of illegal entry/damage • Regulator visit (BCT) completed in August <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agreement reached on management of property from Year 11 onwards. <p>Question on 1080 baiting and potential impacts on native fauna. Action: Agenda item for next meeting</p> <p>Environment- Reports Generated in Last Quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL 20130 Annual Return Report • FY25 Sustainability Report • FY25 National Pollutant Inventory Report • Annual review of Pollution Incident Response Management Plan • 5 yearly air emissions stack testing of three boilers during gas send out. 	<p>Slide 7</p> <p>Slide 11</p>
COMMUNITY	<p>JF provided an update on the community sponsorship during the past quarter, including:</p> <p>NAIDOC Week Family Fun Day.</p> <p>Nations of Origin 2025: The Worimi Nation proudly participated in the 2025 Nations of Origin Rugby League tournament, a major youth sporting event hosted in Western Sydney. The tournament features Under 16 male and female teams from 21 First Nations across NSW, promoting cultural pride, inclusion, and youth development.</p> <p>AGL NGSF has provided \$2500 in sponsorship to support the Worimi team's participation. This funding enabled the purchase of full kits for the youth players, featuring artwork designed by Hunter River High students, reinforcing local identity and cultural expression.</p> <p>2025 saw a male and female side enter with 24 local kids participating.</p> <p>This is the fourth year that sides under the Worimi banner have played. Although highly competitive they did not progress to the finals.</p> <p>DB commented on the new jumpers, which gave team members a positive boost, giving them a sense of pride.</p>	<p>Slide 13</p> <p>Slide 14</p>

	<p>It is hoped that Port Stephens will host the event in the future and that AGL will continue to be involved.</p> <p>ZK further commented that WAC will be holding a Bush Christmas event and the group is looking for donations. Any items left over are donated to the Worimi and Karuah communities.</p> <p>It will also include an “expo” type of program, in conjunction with PCYC and it is proposed to have stalls, which will include information for Year 12 students looking for work. 200 hampers should be coming in for the community, to be held on 5th December 2025 from 10am to 2pm.</p> <p>Cost of living – Supporting customers and community groups helping those in need.</p> <p>Emergency Food & Clothing appeal. PSFaNS provide critical emergency food relief and clothing assistance to local families with children who are facing food insecurity and financial hardship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Breakfast, Lunch and dinner pack ▪ Essential pantry items ▪ Lowes vouchers for school clothing for children <p>Funding will have an immediate impact on the lives of local families in crisis and provide them with some dignity, support and hope.</p> <p>2025 Toy Run Sponsor Our support helps provide a free community fun day for families doing it tough.</p> <p>AGL continue to support the toy run as they work closely with our partners The Salvation Army.</p> <p>The distribution of the Toy Runs efforts is managed through the Salvos Raymond Terrace branch.</p> <p>This year they anticipate 10,000 riders, 5000 spectators, 10,000 families and community members.</p>	Slide 15
AGL UPDATE	<p>RC provided the AGL Update:</p> <p>FY25 Full-Year Results 13 August 2025</p> <p>Significant improvement in safety performance; Customer satisfaction and employee engagement scores remain strong</p> <p>Strong FY25 Results in line with guidance; Fully franked final dividend declared</p>	Slides 16 – 24

	<p>Significant investment in growth with ~\$900 million deployed towards battery developments and strategic investments</p> <p>AGL's flexible portfolio captured increased volatility despite lower fleet availability</p> <p>Since launching its first Climate Transition Action Plan, AGL has consistently delivered on our strategic priorities</p> <p>New grid-scale battery projects further enhance our flexible asset fleet capacity and broader portfolio management</p> <p>AGL's 2025 Climate Transition Action Plan</p> <p>AGL's investment in targeted M&A has supported the delivery of its strategy.</p>	
<p>TOMAGO BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM 500MW/2000MWh (4 hours duration)</p>	<p>CS provided the update:</p> <p>Tomago Battery Salvage works visit AH advised that 75 transects were identified by RAPS, who have been putting in a lot of work onsite over the past 2 weeks. Flakes have been found on site. When works are completed artefacts will go back to AECOM who may rebury the artefacts on the NGSF site (to be confirmed).</p> <p>DB commented on the "unearthing" and the importance of protecting trees, etc.</p> <p>DB commented that there were 8k items unearthed as part of the M1 project.</p> <p>ZK asked if there is an Aboriginal Participation Plan for first nations employment opportunities with the project. CS advised that there is. CP stated that it is worth looking at how the plans will work together for the project.</p> <p>Project Schedule Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction Q4 2025 - Q3 2027 ○ Operational from Q4 2027 <p>Development Approval Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AGL and Port Stephens Council confirmed the Voluntary Planning Agreement ○ Community EV Charges in collaboration with Port Stephens Council ○ AGL Management Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biodiversity Management Plan, reviewed by CPHR, approval by DPHI pending 	<p>Slide 25 – 28</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cultural Heritage Management Plan – reviewed by Heritage NSW and approved by DPHI. Salvage works required by the plan are currently being undertaken ○ Environmental Management Strategy, approved by DPHI ○ Soil and Water Management Plan, reviewed by DCCEEW Water group, approval by DPHI pending ○ Fluence Management Plans under preparation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire Safety Study ○ Emergency Management Plan ○ Traffic Management Plan ○ Construction Environmental Management Plan <p>AGL Team Update: Project Financial Investment Decision announced on 31st of July 2025, with Fluence as EPC contractor.</p> <p>AGL Development team (Carina, Amelia, Arianna) handover to AGL Construction team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamid Shilani, Portfolio Director • Charlie Perry, Senior Project Manager • Michele Nettlefold, Approvals Manager • Jo Ferguson to continue with Community Engagement 	
GENERAL BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZK asked what the percentage of employment is for indigenous people. Action: Took on notice. • PLM advised that he had reported back to PSC following the last meeting, informing them of AGL's NGSF safety record and good work with its community grants program. He also undertook some research on the amount of gas storage contained in the tank on site. • ZK suggested that the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens needed a "gathering area". KP stated that he would be very happy to discuss and invited ZK to the Gardens for further conversations. • LR stated that he would like the shirt sizes of CDG members so he could distribute shirts. Action: Interested members to provide shirt sizes to LA for coordination back to LR. 	
NEXT MEETING	 Wednesday 26 November 2025 on site at Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, commencing at 10am	Agreed.

Meeting closed at 11.24am with LA thanking members for their attendance and contribution.

Postscript:

With the handover of the Tomago Battery Project from development to construction – AH advised that this would be the last meeting that she and AON would be attending. LA thanked them for providing updates at the CDG's during the project's development application process with DPHI.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Present on 1080 baiting program	JM
2	Advise what the percentage of employment is for indigenous people on the Tomago Battery Project	CP
3	Advise LA of shirt sizes	ALL